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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,286	07/07/2003	Dennis P. Nguyen	OTD-030487-US	7404
27778	7590	04/04/2005	EXAMINER	
COOPER CAMERON CORPORATION PO BOX 1212 HOUSTON, TX 77251-1212			SMITH, MATTHEW J	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3672		

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/614,286	NGUYEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew J. Smith	Art Unit 3672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 8,9 and 18-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7July03
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

Claim Objections

Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: "said rack" lacks antecedent basis in claim 17 (should be claim 18). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 10, 12-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brammer et al. (5439061).

Brammer et al. disclose a one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising: running the tubular string 25 and a seal assembly 83 together into the wellhead15; securing the string downhole (fig. 4); positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead and securing (fig. 4); pulling a tensile force on the string all in one trip (col. 6, line 22); allowing a lock ring 97 to move between the seal assembly and the wellhead to secure the seal assembly in the wellhead; using a running tool 77 to deliver the string and seal assembly; releasing the lock ring using the running tool (col. 6, line 31); retaining the string with the running tool after releasing the lock ring (col. 6, lines 18-19); releasing the lock ring by rotation of the running tool (col. 6, line 29); using the running tool to pull tension on the string and locking in the tension with a ratchet and releasing a lock 97, after the advancing, to secure the seal assembly

to the wellhead with the running tool (col. 6, lines 14-22); pulling the tensile force on the string before the positioning of the seal assembly and advancing the seal assembly into the wellhead during or after the pulling of the tensile force (col. 3, line 61); using a rack 37 and pinion 39 for the advancing; and securing the seal to a hanger 35 and then to the wellhead.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brammer et al. in view of Nobileau et al. (4903776).

Brammer et al. disclose a one trip method of tensioning and sealing a tubular string to a wellhead, comprising: running the tubular string 25 and a seal assembly 83 together into the wellhead15; securing the string downhole (fig. 4); positioning the seal assembly in contact with the wellhead and securing (fig. 4); pulling a tensile force on the string all in one trip (col. 6, line 22); and pulling the tensile force on the string before the positioning of the seal assembly and advancing the seal assembly into the wellhead during or after the pulling of the tensile force (col. 3, line 61) but not using a hydraulic piston for advancing.

Nobileau et al. present a hydraulic piston 89 in a casing hanger 17 on a running tool 25 capable of allowing tensioning of the string.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a hydraulic piston, as presented by Nobileau et al., in order to intensify the axial movement of the string (Nobileau et al., col. 1, lines 60-63).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 9, and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nguyen et al. (6516887) show tensioning a string.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Smith whose telephone number is 703-305-5135. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F, 9-4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 703-308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

MJS *MJS*
9 February 2005